PRODUCT FEATURE: VAX 6000 Gets High Marks *page 55*

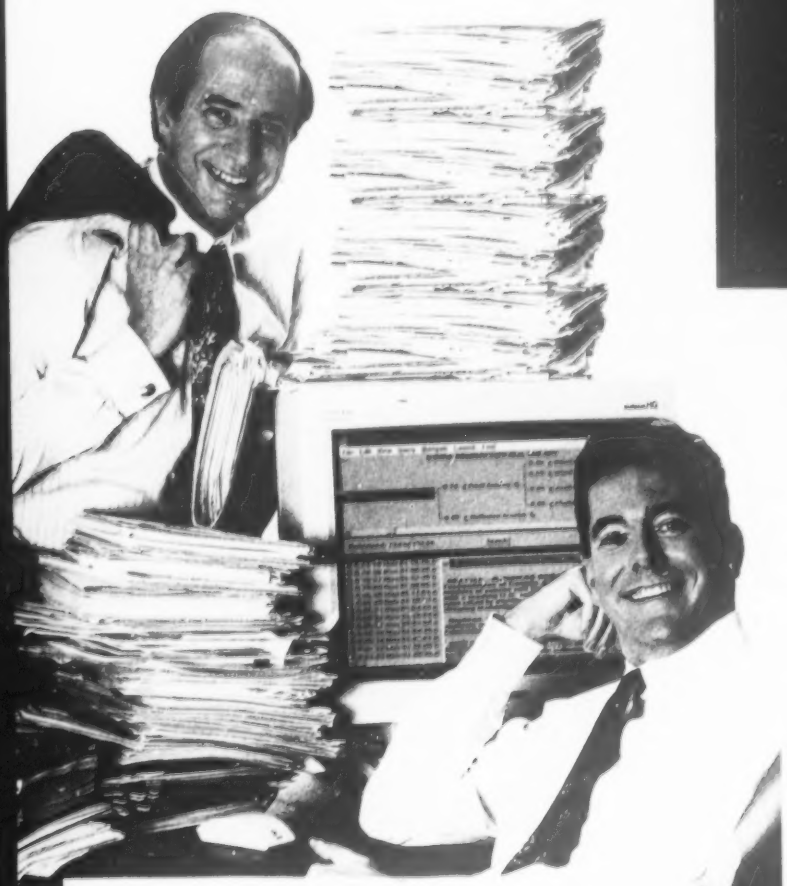
A CAHNERS PUBLICATION

DATAMATION

FOR CORPORATE COMPUTING PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE

JANUARY 15, 1992

Michael S. Pliner (l.), president & CEO, and Clifford A. Reid (r.), VP of product development, Verity Inc., with TOPIC, text retrieval software



Smart Document Retrieval!

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VOLUME 38
NUMBER 2

Verity's TOPIC helps IS professionals find out what they don't know they don't know.

COVER STORY

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Smart Document Retrieval! 20

BY ELAINE L. APPLETON With innovative "concept-retrieval" software that runs on a half-dozen user interfaces, Verity is trying to help IS managers conquer document retrieval. Easier said than done.

Cover photography by Chris Springmann

SPECIAL REPORT

COMDEX NEW PRODUCTS

Best Of Breed From COMDEX 58

BY DATAMATION STAFF

The future of PCs was everywhere to be seen within thousands of new products at COMDEX. For IS, the crystal ball is filled with images of Windows, OS/2, powerful notebooks, multiprocessor servers—and, just for fun, multimedia.

PRODUCT GUIDE

FEATURE

VAX 6000 Gets High Marks 55

BY SARAH H. LINDSEY

Digital Equipment Corp. believes the VAX 6000 model 600, with speeds up to three times as fast as current models, can take on the competition.

Digital's Nist expects the VAX 6000 model 600 to compete against RISC machines.

FEATURES

PCs & WORKSTATIONS

MAPPING SOFTWARE

PC Mapping Charts A New Course 27

BY LEE THE Once the province of specialists, desktop-mapping software is gaining in importance as a general-purpose decision support and presentation tool linked to corporate databases.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Will Sun's Solaris Succeed On PCs? 33

BY RICK COOK Suddenly, out of the blue, there's another desktop operating system to consider. Solaris 2.0 is a no brainer for SPARC, but getting non-Sun customers excited will take more than technical merit.

NETWORKS

INTEGRATION

IS Has A New Job In Manufacturing 38

BY MARK SCHLACK Global competition has given IS a new mission: breaking down the barriers between the plant, office and design center to speed product development and boost quality.

SOFTWARE

MANUFACTURING

Connect Manufacturing To The Enterprise 42

BY MIKE RICCIUTI Users of manufacturing software have spoken: they want distributed, easily portable and interoperable manufacturing software. Vendors have answered with Enterprise Resource Planning.

SYSTEMS

BENCHMARKS

The Mainframe Performance Debate 47

BY JEFF MOAD It's an old story: there are lies, damn lies—and statistics. In the face of an increasingly complex mainframe world, users are crying out for standard, auditable benchmarks.

Xerox's Siriano is driven to be "vendor-independent," page 38.

DATAMATION staffers selected almost 100 of the most promising new products from a crowded field, page 58.

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The Great OS/2 2.0 Debut

The Wide World Of Windows

Low-Powered Portables Break Through

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Multimedia Is Almost Here

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MARKET INSIGHTS

A SURVEY OF TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Networks Fly With FDDI

BY WARREN CHILDS AND KATHRYN A. TITO
Business Research Group

Installation of Fiber Distributed Data Interface (FDDI) technology in networking environments is burgeoning, as businesses employ more applications on local area networks that require higher bandwidth. Using LANs for client/server computing applications or to transmit complex data types such as images, sound and video all require the high 100-megabit-per-second transmission capacity that FDDI offers in order to run smoothly and not bog down the network. In comparison, Ethernet and Token Ring standards top out at only 16Mbps.

The latest survey of the DATAMATION Technology Panel shows that 42% of panel members either have implemented or plan to implement FDDI. Most plan to implement it for campuswide networks to interconnect LANs between buildings inside a six-mile radius. Fiber is especially well matched for this type of networking because of its bandwidth capacity and its inherent security from electrical interference.

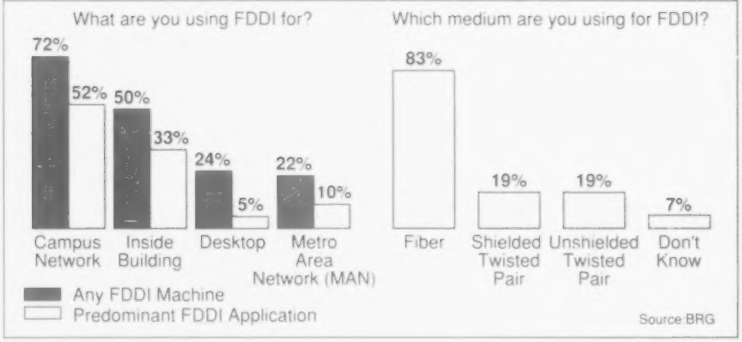
One-third of those planning to use FDDI say they will primarily use it to interconnect LANs within the same building. Another 10% will use it principally to implement a metropolitan area network (MAN).

The high cost of replacing copper cable with fiber is keeping most users from bringing FDDI to the desktop. But recently developed FDDI/twisted pair technology will make it more feasible to bring 100Mbps bandwidth to the desktop, since most buildings already possess twisted pair wiring installed for telephone systems.

Although the growth outlook for FDDI remains strong, the significant investment in Ethernet and Token Ring technologies will relegate initial FDDI growth to LAN internetworking.

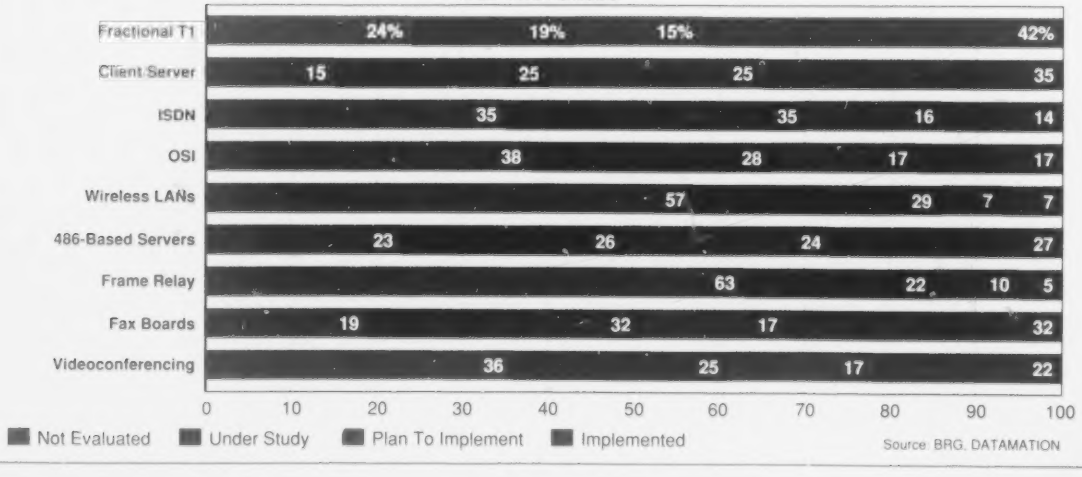
For more information, call Nancy Finn at (617)-964-6204, send her a fax at (617)-558-4402 or write to her at the Business Research Group, 275 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02158.

Add Some Fiber To Your Network



DATAMATION's Technology Implementation Index: Networks And Communications

DATAMATION each month surveys a select group of its readers–the DATAMATION Technology Panel–to investigate the implementation of new technologies by key user organizations.



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